

AMENDMENT TO THE SDX-BENDEX-SVES "A" OR "B" AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AND THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
TO INCLUDE STATE ONLINE QUERY (SOLQ) ACCESS
FOR CONDUCT OF A SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM MATCHING OPERATION
ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS, TERMS, AND PERIOD SPECIFIED BELOW

Article I. Purpose , Legal Authority, and Definitions

Purpose

I.A. add:

The purpose of this amendment to the SDX-BENDEX-SVES agreement is to establish conditions and methods of access under which SSA agrees to extend to **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS)** State Online Query (SOLQ) access to various SSA databases and processes as specified in the main agreement and indicated in the amendments below.

SSA agrees to extend, once certain criteria are met, to participating States, including **North Carolina**, SOLQ capability for the purpose of accessing various SSA databases and computer processes via direct systems linkages to facilitate **North Carolina** administration of certain State programs listed in the main agreement (i.e., Medicaid, TANF, and Food Stamp programs) and to provide safeguards against unauthorized use and redisclosure of such information.

Such access capability covers only the databases and processes mentioned in the main agreement unless such database or process is specifically excluded from access by reference in this section below as follows:

SOLQ access to certain SSA databases is granted solely under the terms of amendment to the agreement. SSA data obtained under the requirements of the SOLQ amendment to this agreement may be used only in the manner described in the main agreement including the SOLQ amendment. Further redisclosure of SSA data by the State agency may occur only if permitted by the Privacy Act and SSA agrees to the redisclosure.

Definitions

I.C. add:

- o "Numident Query" means a systems query wherein an SSN is entered to determine to whom the SSN belongs. The system responds with a record for each time that an SSN card was issued to the individual. This record includes the cardholder's name, date of birth, place of birth, parents' names, other names by which the cardholder is known, and the date and office from which the card was issued. In addition, if the death of the cardholder has been reported, a death record is appended to the query.
- o "State Online Query (SOLQ)" is an electronic process for providing State authorized personnel the ability to access various SSA databases, as specified in the main agreement, as is necessary by querying specific records of individuals to facilitate processing of certain State actions. "Wire-to-wire" linkages replace the need to utilize magnetic tapes or cartridges to transfer a large volume of records pertaining to many individuals between the State Agency and SSA electronically through BENDEX, SDX, EVS, and/or SVES queries and are direct connections between two systems for ongoing flow of data with no intervening manual intervention.

Article II. Justification and Anticipated Results

Justification

II.A.4. add:

SOLQ adds a specific electronic use available to any participating State for accessing SSA data. It is more efficient and quicker than other processes currently available to the States. SOLQ will eliminate time-consuming contacts with SSA field offices to obtain basic beneficiary data, which will be furnished, directly to the State via direct computer linkage.

Anticipated Results

II.B. add:

SOLQ access has potential to increase program and administrative savings for SSA and the States. Savings estimates will be prepared as SOLQ is implemented from State to State and operational results become available.

Article III. Systems Operations

III.H. add:

The SOLQ aspect of this matching program is operated by SSA and the State electronically via direct systems linkages made available solely for the disclosure of information as requested, specified, and authorized under the terms of this agreement.

Article V. Duration and Modification of the Agreement

Duration

V.A. add:

The SOLQ amendment to this agreement is effective upon signing and only for the period covered by the main text of this matching agreement. Any unauthorized use or violation of any provisions of the SOLQ amendment constitutes a breach of the terms of the main agreement and may result in an immediate termination of SOLQ arrangements by SSA.

Modification

V.B. add:

Either party to this SOLQ amendment may request modification to the terms of this amendment at any time. Written notification of failure to reach agreement on a written request for modification may constitute notice of cancellation of this amendment of the main agreement.

The participating State Agency, authorized to use SOLQ, may not use the information provided for any purpose, or in any way, not authorized explicitly by the terms of this amendment, nor expand access to any other persons or entities without an approved modification to this amendment of the main agreement.

Article X. Records Usage, Duplication, and Redisclosure Restrictions

X.A.5. add: (This paragraph is added to highlight additional privacy requirements of SOLQ.)

Complete records will be kept of any redisclosure of information obtained from SSA databases via SOLQ. Records pertaining to redisclosures will be retained for a minimum of 3 (preferably 7) years, and they will be available for inspection as SSA may require.

These records will show:

- o What information was redisclosed;
- o To whom the redisclosure was made;
- o The purpose for redisclosure;
- o The legal basis for redisclosure; and
- o The name of the State Agency official who authorized the redisclosure.

Additional Security Requirements

The State will use the data accessed and any records created with such data as provided for under the terms of the agreement and in the manner prescribed by law and will maintain proper safeguards to prevent unauthorized release or use of such data. SSA's specific security guidelines, "Information System Security Guidelines for Federal, State and Local Agencies Receiving Electronic Information from the Social Security Administration," must be adhered to.

In witness thereof, the parties execute this agreement:

Recipient Agency:

Source Agency:

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary
NC DHHS

Atlanta Regional Commissioner
Social Security Administration

Date

Date